

REMARKS

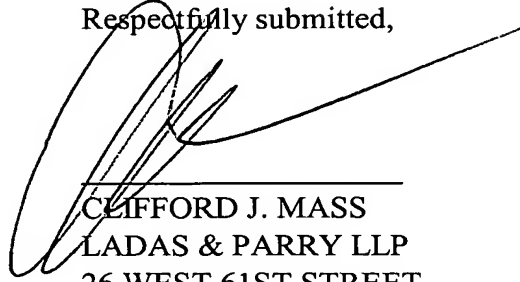
The Official Action of 26 July 2005 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The indication that claim 68 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, is acknowledged with appreciation. The limitations formerly in claim 68 have now been incorporated into new claim 69, which is thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) appearing at paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Official Action in view of Shimamura.. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to delete the "hetero-ring-containing compound" from the recited Markush group. Shimamura does not show or suggest the claimed surface treatment with a treatment agent comprising any sulfur compound of the Markush group now recited. Accordingly, and since the rejections at paragraphs 4 and 5 are the sole remaining rejections of record, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the rejections and places the application into allowable form.

An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clifford J. Mass', is written over a horizontal line.

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